SOME KANSAS HAPPENINGS.

For a Slice of Missouri.

The Kansas legislature will be called upon to pass a bill authorizing Attorney General Godard to institute proceedings in the United States supreme court for a resurvey of the boundary line between Kansas and Missouri, with the idea of securing a goodly slice of the latter state for Kansas. The bill was prepared in conformity with a belief which has long existed in the minds of many old residents of Kansas that the state line is nearly one-half mile west of where it should be and that the state of Missouri is exercising jurisdiction over a strip of territory extending from Kansas City to the southern line of the state which really belongs to Kansas. This belief is based on the fact that under the survey of 1820 the boundary line between Missouri and the territory west was made to follow a meridian line which passed through the mouth of the Kaw river. The Kansans who are behind this movement contend that a large part of the west bottoms in Kansas City, Mo., which contain many large wholesale establishments, implement houses, manufactories, railroad depots and yards and the Dold packing-house, as well as the Missouri part of the stock yards, is soil rightfully belonging to Kansas.

Wants an Asylum for Inebriates.

A bill introduced in the house by Kutz, of Pratt, makes it the duty of probate judges to commit inebriates to the state asylums for the insane as well as anyone of unsound mind. The bill also provides for the appointment of guardians for drunkards so committed.

Will Not Pardon Jointkeepers.

During Gov. Stanley's administration Kansas jointists will have to abide by the verdict of judge and jury. Gov. Stanley announces that in no case will he pardon a man who has been legally convicted of selling liquor.

Would Bring Revenue to the State.

The senate committee on banking has recommended the passage of Senator Johnson's bill providing for the deposit of public funds, now in the state treasury, in public banks. The bill is favored because it would bring to the state several thousand dollars each year in interest.

Columbus' Offer for the Asylum.

Columbus will make an effort to land the branch insane asylumn and in support of its bid will make a remarkable proposition. A mass meeting of the citizens of the town was held at which it was decided to donate 640 acres of coal land and dig a main from a well 1,400 feet deep. This assures coal to supply the asylum for 3,000 years and water for all purposes for all time.

At Its Actual Value.

The Kansas County Clerks' association in session at Topeka last week passed the following resolution:

That the assessment and taxation law be so amended as to impose a penalty upon each township assessor and the state railway assessors for failure to assess all property at its actual value and a penalty be imposed upon each board that does not equalize property at its actual value. Also, that a penalty be imposed upon each person who fails or refuses to list all of his property upon which he is liable to taxation either upon his own account or as agent.

INSIGNIA ON OVERCOATS.

Naval Uniforms on Shore Duty Surprise Some National Guard Officers.

During the recent convention of the national guard officers at the Palmer house several officers appeared wearing uniform overcoats with the hood hanging down the back and bright new shoulder straps glaring on the shoulders. These officers seemed to be unconscious of the unusual display, says a Chicago exchange. Landsmen wear insignia on the sleeves of their overcoats, narrow festoons of black silk braid being all that is needed to tell the grade. So as these officers entered the clubrcom with shoulder straps outside their overcoats considerable comment followed.

"What's the meaning of that, do you think?" was the question of one grizzled colonel, who has participated in two wars.

"Give it up," his companion answered. "Guess they are afraid we won't know they are officers. First thing you know some of these militiamen will wear shoulder straps on their undershirts."

A closer inspection revealed the fact that the officers under discussion were naval militiamen. The uniform prescribed for naval officers on shore duty calls for shoulder straps on the overcoat, and they were simply complying with regulations. One of them expressed his disgust because of the enforced display and consequent ridicule from those acquainted with the law, but he was powerless.

Iron Giving Place to Steel.

Steel has almost superseded iron in the manufacture of pipe and tubing until it is estimated that almost 75 per cent. of the entire product of the country is now made of steel. Up to a few years ago wrought iron was used almost exclusively. The lap-weld joint proved a serious objection, and the change to steel has been rapid and complete. Steel pipe is stronger, has longer life and is less liable to corrosion. Steel tubing has enabled the bicycle industry to become revolutionized, and pipe forms a leading article in tonnage of the steel industry in this country and foreign markets.

The Fourteenth Guest.

The most curious agency which has been inaugurated in Paris for some time past is that for the supply of the fourteenth guest. Parisians, like some other people, have a superstitious objection to dinner parties of 13. This agency supplies a fourteenth guest when desired.

Languages Spoken in Brazil.

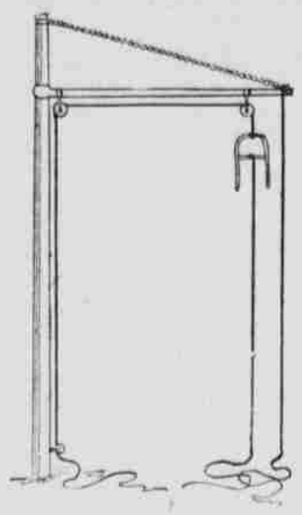
In Brazil there are said to be 300 languages and dialects spoken by the Indians.

FARM & GARDEN.

THE DERRICK STACKER.

A Western Device Which Gives General Satisfaction in Hoisting Hay and Grain.

The derrick stacker is in use in many sections of the west, and gives general satisfaction in hoisting hay, straw and grain. It is made stationary, and can be used in making a round stack, with the pole in the middle, or for lifting hay or grain to a platform, from which it may be put in the barn. This simple device is also handy for stacking on sheds, saving all the heavy pitching from the wagon. Some farmers have the derricks set against the barn, and use them for hoisting machinery to the top floor in winter and letting it down in the spring. The derrick will be found handy for filling and emptying silos and cellars, and will save time and money on any farm if properly handled.



A DERRICK STACKER.

The stacker consists of one long post or pole set solidly in the ground and extending 30 to 40 feet in the air, a short arm of ten or twelve feet, and the necessary ropes and pulleys. The arm is fastened at the height desired by bolting onto an iron band, sometimes made from an old wagon-tire inserted in a groove or collar cut around the post. A strong wire, rope or chain is then fastened to the outer end of the arm, or derrick, and on a band made to circle round near the top of the pole. Three pulleys are sufficient to hoist the load, and a small rope in the hands of the man on the stack or ground enables him to pull the hoisted load wherever desired.

As no one has disturbed the farmers using the derrick, it is supposed the stacker is not patented, hence no royalties will be demanded of anyone who wishes to make one.—Joel Shomaker, in Farm and Fireside.

CLEANING UP THINGS.

No Time of the Year Is Better Suited for This Kind of Work Than the Present.

During the next two months is one of the best seasons for cleaning up the farm, and in the majority of farms there is plenty of opportunity or need for this kind of work. After the plowing for wheat is done the manure can all be cleaned out of the stables, sheds and feed lots and hauled out and scattered broadcast on the land intended for wheat. The work of properly preparing the land for the reception of the seed will incorporate sufficiently with the soil. Weeds may be cut down in the meadows and pastures and along the fence rows to a good advantage. Many of them, if cut down before they mature seeds, will be effectually killed out.

This is one of the best reasons for killing out sprouts and briars. With the exception of sassafras and persimmon almost all kinds may be effectually killed out by cutting down reasonably close to the ground almost any time in August. With these two in nearly all cases the only safe plan is to grub out, cutting them off at least six inches below the surface. While this plan requires considerable work, in the end it will prove much the more economical. This is so much the case that generally it will be better to thoroughly clean an acre in this way than to spend the same amount of time and labor cutting off and burning a larger acreage, but doing less effective work.

Cutting close to the ground and letting lay until dry and then burning will kill out many weeds, moss and sprouts, but with persimmon and sassafras the tops will rarely be killed down so deep but that the roots will send up shoots next year, and in a short time they will be as much in the way as ever.

By keeping the farm clear the value is materially increased to say nothing of the better satisfaction in working it.—N. J. Shepherd, in Farmers' Voice.

Open Ditches Breed Weeds.

Open ditches are usually weed nurseries, because not one farmer in ten ever finds time to go along them and keep the weeds down to prevent them from seeding. An open ditch also occupies much more ground than the width of the cut. There must be a turn row on both sides or else the crop to the width of such a row is tramped down and ruined. For these reasons it pays to put in tile drains instead of open ditches. A tile drain lasts forever; an open ditch needs cleaning out every year.

SELECTING SEED CORN.

Every Single Ear Should Be Chosen Solely on Account of Its Being Near a Standard.

My father practiced selecting his seed corn at husking time. His first rule was to choose the upper ear on a stalk having two or more good plump ears. A few of the inner husks were left on the ear to mark it for saving, when putting the corn in the crib. When all the seed was collected, the ears were braided into large bundles and hung up to dry, out of the reach of mice or rats. The second rule of selection was more useful than the first. He chose only the ears set close to the stalks, having a short footstalk and a small or medium sized shank at the end of the cob. Such ears husk easily, as the cob breaks close to the corn and the husks cling to the footstalk and not to the ear when husking.

Following these directions we always saved a large supply of seed corn, and the type of ears and corn and ear-setting became noted and uniform. Many hills of corn having two stalks would yield three ears each, and where there were three or four stalks in a hill often all but one of them had two ears each. Prolific bearing was the rule. And this was clearly produced by constant, persistent selection following one line. At the same time the ears were set close to the stalks so that the weight of grain was balanced. Thus storms would not so readily tangle and twist the crop, or carry it down to the ground.

I know of farmers to-day who have been saving their seed on another line for many years. They choose the longest ears to be found, without any regard to the stalks or footstalks. The result has been to establish a type of corn with one long ear growing on a long footstalk, attached to the main stalk low down, often close to the ground, so that when cutting the corn the footstalk is cut and the ear is thus separated from the stalk, and has to be picked up and put in the stout. And when the ears are not thus cut off they hang down and drop to the ground and become watersoaked or rot by the time of husking. These long drooping ears often bear down so heavily that the stalks are carried to the ground early in the season and cannot fully mature the crop.—Country Gentleman.

ALL AROUND THE FARM.

Plants, like animals, need food, and, like animals, do best on a balanced ration.

Alcohol in large quantities is used in making smokeless powder. It is used to kill, as it nearly always is.

We have raised 56 bushels of kafir corn to the acre, when alongside of it in the same field we only raised 30 bushels of corn.

It may be accepted as true that where corn is grown for the grain each plant should have an opportunity for its fullest development.

Experimental work thus far conducted indicates that it makes but little difference, so far as yield is concerned, whether corn is grown in drills or in hills.

A man is worth something to himself, and the world, because he is greater than the brutes—greater in aspirations—and satisfaction with him means more.

Beet pulp is the refuse of the sugar beet after the sugar has been extracted. It is a valuable food for cattle, sheep and hogs, mixed with chopped hay, corn chop or some other dry food.

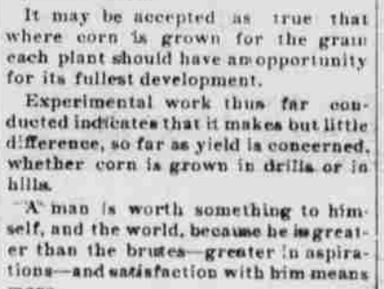
The 420,000,000 people inhabiting the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia annually consume the product of 252,000,000 acres of rye and wheat, being at the rate of .06 of an acre per capita.

We hear of soils wearing out. This often means that the finest soil grains have been dissolved in the process of feeding the plants leaving the soil mass with a coarser mechanical arrangement, which reduces its power to retain moisture.—Western Plowman.

SMALL WORKBENCH.

Exceedingly Convenient for Doing Small Jobs of Repairing Around House or Barn.

A small workbench is very convenient for doing small jobs of repairing. Get a long, deep, but narrow, empty grocery box and mount it upon legs upon its side as shown. This provides not only a workbench, but a shelf below it for keeping tools. The cover of the box can be hinged to the front for the purpose of keeping the tools more secure. There is not a farm in the country that can afford to be without at least a small bench on which to make repairs and to construct the small articles needed for carrying on farm operations.—N. Y. Tribune.



FARM WORKBENCH.

Scientific Crop Rotation.

The New Jersey experiment stations practice crop rotation, and six of the principal systems are as follows, corn being planted the first year in all of them: Second year, oats; third year, wheat or rye; fourth year, clover. Second year, potatoes; third year, wheat or rye; fourth year, clover. Second year, wheat or rye; third year, clover; fourth year, timothy. Second year, potatoes; third year, clover. Second year, potatoes; third year, potatoes; fourth year, melons. Second year, potatoes; third year, tomatoes; fourth year, clover.

PRACTICAL SEED TEST.

A Very Simple Operation Which Requires Absolutely No Expenditure of Money.

Testing seeds on the farm is such a highly satisfactory practice that, having tried it once by a good method, it is likely to become an established feature. Nothing can be more vexatious than to carefully manure and prepare a piece of ground for some particular crop, plant the seed just at the right time and in the right manner, and then, after waiting a reasonable time finally discover that poor seed has been procured in the beginning and that only a part of it has come up. Experience like this can be avoided by seed testing, which is in reality a very simple thing, and requires absolutely no outlay of money.

In the first place, seed should be procured early in the season, to allow plenty of time to return it and procure other seed, in case it is found to be poor.

FIG. 1—SEED PAN.

All the apparatus necessary for ordinary testing of the germinating powers of seeds is a tin pan, like a cake pan or bread pan, a little cotton cloth or sheeting and a dozen or so sticks, long enough to reach across the short way of the pan, as shown in the accompanying cuts. A couple of little headless brads can be driven into each stick, which latter should have square edges so as to rest steadily on the pan, and on these pins pieces of the cloth can be hooked at the four corners. These cloths or bags should have a strip sewed at the bottom which will reach to the bottom of the pan, while the bag itself, in the bottom of which are placed the seeds, is midway the depth of the pan. Water should be placed in the pan, but not enough to reach the seeds; they will be moistened by water drawn up by the lower strip or wick. See Figs. 1 and 2. The pan should be kept in a temperature as even as possible, ranging from 65 to 85 degrees. Only one kind of seed should be placed in each bag, and a certain number of these seeds should be counted out when so placed and a record kept on an accompanying slip. After the seeds have been given sufficient time to sprout they should be counted and the percentage of the good seed reckoned. The work takes comparatively little time, and will be found very interesting. For instance, take a test of clover seed; in extracting a sample, the seed should be thoroughly mixed and stirred and then a pinch taken at random and, say, 50 or 100 seeds counted out and placed in the bag, where they may remain for ten days. Many of them, however, will sprout before the expiration of that period and these should be removed and a record kept of them. Some seeds of course start more easily than other kinds. The following periods may be stated as the limits required for the germination of good seed of the kinds named: For cereals, peas, beans, vetches, sunflower, buckwheat, clover, corn and cow peas, ten days; for serradella, beet balls, rye grasses, timothy, tobacco, Lespedeza and other field and vegetable seeds not named, 14 days; grass seeds are slow to start, and for all grasses except rye grass and timothy, from 20 to 28 days may be required. Kentucky bluegrass and Bermuda grass are very slow to start. The periods recommended are those adopted by the United States department of agriculture in its seed tests. If the seeds are good and fresh, most of them will sprout in less than half the time allowed for the test. It is essential, of course, to see that there is never a lack of moisture for the seeds, and that the cloths are never allowed to become dry. It is also advisable to soak the seeds during the first ten hours by putting enough water in the pan to touch the bottoms of the bags; this will hasten the germinating process, but too much wetting will tend to spoil the seeds.—Guy E. Mitchell, in Ohio Farmer.

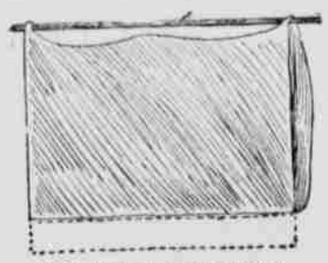


FIG. 2—BAG FOR SEEDS.

Buckwheat and Kaffir Corn.

I find buckwheat one of the best whole grain foods for hens. They never become cloyed on it, and it is a great egg-producing grain. In experiments made in feeding during the past winter, where the evening feed had been wholly of corn, I found that the substitution of buckwheat materially increased the egg yield. Kaffir corn is a grain that should receive more attention from poultrymen. While its nutritive value is about the same as that of Indian corn, it is relished much better by fowls and seems to produce more eggs. Where one raises his own grain, I prefer to feed both buckwheat and Kaffir corn, unthreshed, as working it out of the straw gives the hens exercise.—L. E. Keyser, in Reliable Poultry Journal.

All things considered it is cheaper to buy potash than ashes.

The cows are milked at the same hour each day, in the same order and by the same person.

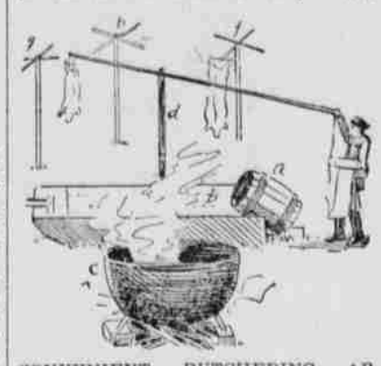
We have found that a careless feeder can use a great deal of feed from which we get no returns.

No material change occurs in the composition of the corn-cobs during the several stages of ripening.

AIDS IN BUTCHERING.

How This Much-Dreaded Winter Task Can Be Robbed of Some of Its Worst Terrors.

Butchering hogs has many disagreeable features, but some of these, particularly the lifting of the hogs before and after dressing, can be robbed of many of their objections by having a convenient arrangement for scalding, scraping, cleaning and hanging. One arrangement for lightening labor in this way is shown in the accompanying illustration. The farm sled can be used as the scraping platform (b). The scalding vat (a) may be any large barrel which will hold water. Securely block and brace it so that it will not be displaced in putting the hog in and taking it out. In the iron kettle (c) the water is heated. The hog is killed and drawn along the side of the scraping platform opposite the iron kettle. Instead of lifting the carcass onto the platform by hand, make use of the pivotal lever attached to the post (d).



CONVENIENT BUTCHERING ARRANGEMENT.

Place a chain about the hind legs of the hog, hook the short end of the lever into this chain and the hog is lifted easily. The post (d) is equally distant from the platform (b) and posts (g, b and f).

After the hogs have been scalded and all the hair removed put them in the gambrels and with the lever lift them from the scraping platform and swing them around so they can be hung upon the cross bars in posts (g, b and f). A lot of heavy lifting is thus avoided. The cross bars can be made so that they will turn around on a pivot in the direction of the arrows. This is accomplished by boring a 1½-inch hole in the top of the post. Use for cross bars four by four oak properly narrowed at the outer ends. Cross these on top of the posts, bore a 1½-inch hole in the middle of the intersection and secure them in place by means of an iron pin which fits into the 1½-inch hole in the crosspieces and the post. Fasten the cross arms together, and a first-class, cheap pivotal arrangement for hanging hogs is the result. With this device and the lever there is absolutely no necessity for heavy lifting. If one does not care to go to the trouble of arranging the cross arms so that they will turn they can be securely fastened to the top of the post, or, better still, mortises made near the top and the cross pieces fitted into them.—Orange Judd Farmer.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

Good water should be free from color, unpleasant odor and taste, and should quickly afford a lather with a small portion of soap.

For washing windows put a few drops of ammonia on a piece of paper, and it will readily take off every spot or finger mark on the glass.

A New England gentleman claims that shingles laid in whitewash will last twice as long as if they had not been treated with the lime.

To render large pieces of wood pliable, bury them in sawdust, and pour boiling water upon the same. A long, narrow box is best for this purpose.

When the face of a hammer becomes uneven, so that it is difficult to drive a nail true with it, put the face to a grindstone awhile and the defect will be overcome.

To remedy a wet cellar already built, sink a channel nearly a foot deep entirely around, close to the wall, and lay a course of drain tiles in the bottom, which will cut off all water veins, and thus render the cellar quite dry.

Sometimes it is necessary to paper over sheets of tin. In that event add old sugar or molasses in large proportion to the paste. It will be found generally effectual.—Western Plowman.

Stone Banking for Barns.

In banking up against the walls of basement barns, and especially in building up a passageway to the entrance, there is always strong temptation to use stones piled in loosely as a basis, where stones are over plentiful on the farm. Yet this usually proves a mistake. Rats will invariably effect a lodgement among such stones, and they will in time work through into the barn basement. Besides, rains will wash dirt among the stones, and it will require constant attention every year to keep the passage way so that loaded wagons can be driven over it.

Fast-Walking Farm Horses.

There is a large difference in the amount of work done in a year by a fast walking horse and one that is slow. If a team travels 20 miles a day, and another team goes 25 miles in the same time, it makes a difference of 1,500 miles for 300 working days in a year. When plowing or cultivating a large field a team will travel from 15 to 20 miles a day, and the difference of a mile or two is an important item during the busy season. There is room for a fast-walking breed of horses.

A Natural Sun Dial.

The largest sun dial in the world is Hayou Horoo, a large promontory extending 3,000 feet above the Aegean sea. As the sun swings round the shadow of this mountain it touches, one by one, a circle of islands, which act as hour marks.

COTTON SEED MEALS.

Practical Feeders Differ Greatly in the Estimate of Their Value as a Stock Food.

Much has been said and written relative to the use of cotton seed meal as a cattle food. Nearly all investigators agree in giving it a high value and urge dairymen to use this material not only because it is a cheap source of protein but because it also has a high manurial value. Practical farmers differ greatly in their estimates of cotton seed meal. Some seem to use it very satisfactorily for awhile and later conclude that the feed is not well adapted for their purposes. Occasionally a feeder observes that the health of the animals is affected by the feeding of cotton seed too freely, and it sometimes happens that even after animals have been fed for months with apparent success that they are injured by its continued use. It has also happened that cows fed upon cotton seed meal do well for a time and that later the milk flow is diminished without apparent cause. There are at present no other concentrated feeding stuffs which vary so much in composition as cotton seed meals from different sources and different mills. Within three weeks the station has examined samples varying from 22 per cent. to over 53 per cent. of protein.

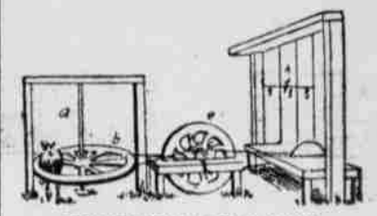
This greater variation in different lots of cotton seed meal may explain the different estimates of different practical feeders and of the same feeders at different times. If a cow is fed a cotton seed meal containing 26 per cent. protein and is then fed an equal weight of meal containing 52 per cent. it is evident that the amount of protein which she receives will have been doubled by the change. If she has been fed up to her full capacity in the first instance such an increase must result disastrously. On the other hand, changing from a cotton seed of high protein content would diminish the milk flow unless the amount of meal feed is correspondingly increased.—Bulletin of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.

FOR CUTTING WOOD.

Saw Power Which Can Easily Be Constructed at Home by Any Bright Farmer.

Sawing the year's supply of wood is a long, hard and laborious job. Many forms of power are now available, such as gas engines, windmills, water wheels, etc., which do the work quickly and easily. Where such cannot be afforded a natural mechanic can make a horse power cutter as illustrated herewith.

First make a shaft (a), on which place a wheel (b) for the horse to work in. Make it 16 to 20 feet in diameter. A heavy balance wheel (e) is then made



HOMEMADE SAW POWER.

and a pulley (c) fastened to it and the horse power wheel. A driving pulley (d) connects the balance wheel with the saw shaft. The saw frame (f) should be made strong and durable. The wood to be sawed is laid on the iron hooks (g), which are stapled so as to swing in and out by the saw. They hang from a heavy durable frame. A connecting bar (h) holds the hooks (g) in a uniform position. Rollers may be put on hooks (g) so the sticks to be cut will roll to the upright frame, the distance to be cut. One-fourth of wheel (b) is hinged in to take the horse in and out.—W. A. Sharp, in Farm and House.

WHEN TO APPLY MANURE.

Results of a Comparative Test Made a Year Ago at the Ohio Experiment Station.

A year ago the Ohio experiment station began a comparative test between cow manure, taken directly from the stable to the field in the spring, and manure of the same sort which had been allowed to lie in the open yard during the winter. The plan of the experiment is to apply both kinds of manure to land intended for corn, plow under at a shallow depth, and follow the corn with wheat and clover, without any further manuring. Four duplicate plots are treated with each kind of manure, applied at the rate of eight tons per acre, the treatment for each pair of plots being exactly alike in all other respects. The result thus far is that the corn of 1897 gave an increase of 13 bushels per acre from the yard manure against 16 bushels from the stall manure, and the wheat crop following has given an increase of ten bushels per acre for the yard manure against 11 bushels from the stall manure. Valuing the corn at 33 cents and the wheat at 80 cents per bushel and the straw and stover at three dollars per ton, the increase from the yard manure in the two crops has amounted to $15 per acre and that from the stall manure to $17, an average of two dollars per ton for the manure, with further effect probable on succeeding crops.

At the End of the Year.

We all like to put aside a surplus of profit at the end of a term of labor. That means we are gaining. But if we make a fair living and meet our expenses, with nothing at the end of the year for surplus, we can hardly say that times are hard. We have had our supplies—all that we needed—and only when we fail in them and really suffer, can we say with reason that times are hard. But we hope, nevertheless, that every one of our folks will be secure in a nice surplus at the end of the year.—Farm Journal.